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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. In January 1952 a conference was held in Son La (103-54; 21-19) at the head-  
quarters of the Free Laos Forces, between Free Laos leaders and Democratic  
Republic of Vietnam (DRV) liaison officers.
2. At this conference a military agreement was signed between Prince Souphanavong,  
the leader of the Free Laos movement, and senior DRV officers, including Le  
Thuan and Ton Duc Thang.<sup>1</sup>  
The details of this agreement are as follows:
3. As sufficient progress had not been made during 1951, all Free Laos and DRV  
guerrilla units were to be brought up to strength, and their military training  
and political indoctrination were to be stepped up to reach the required standard  
which was to be attained during the first half of 1952.
4. New arms and equipment for the Free Laos Forces would be provided by the DRV  
to replace the present inadequate and outdated stocks by the end of 1952. The  
Free Laos would be responsible for launching in the second half of 1952 a  
program aimed at winning over the sympathies and support of Laos soldiers  
serving with the Laos Government forces, who would be used as agents and  
saboteurs. These troops would join the Free Laos Forces when full scale  
operations against the French Union Forces and Vietnamese Army commenced.
5. DRV troops would render assistance to the Free Laos should the positions  
held by the latter be attacked by Government forces. Should the DRV find  
themselves engaged in operations on the Laos-Vietnam border, the Free Laos  
would assist the DRV by providing food supplies, transportation and by per-  
forming other services. As was the case in 1951 the DRV agreed to make good  
any deficit in the Free Laos' 1952 financial budget.

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6. Should Chinese Communist Armies enter Laos, the Free Laos would, under the supreme authority of the DRV, grant common assistance to these Chinese forces upon their entry into or passage through Laos and would likewise provide guides and provisions. Until such time as the French forces were driven out of Laos the existence of the Free Laos Government as an independent and established government would be guaranteed by the DRV.

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1. [ ] Comment. According to information available to this office, Ton Duc Thang is President of the Standing Committee of the DRV National Assembly and President of the Lien Viet Front.

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